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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/439)*]

68/239. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements[1] and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),[2]

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/22 of 24 July 2013 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2013,

Recalling its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011 and 67/216 of 21 December 2012, which addressed the convening in 2016 of a United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III),

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[3] in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable

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[1] See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May–11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

[2] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it is recognized that cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recognizing that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements [4] and the Habitat Agenda, [5] challenges remain, such as, inter alia, the rapid urbanization process in large parts of the developing world, the continuing increase in the number of urban slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation on human settlements, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, and the increasing vulnerability of urban settlements to natural and human-made disasters,

Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum as the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the city of Medellin for offering to host the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014,

Recalling paragraph 14 of resolution 67/216, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal, for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session, on how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly,

Taking note of the report of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on its twenty-fourth session, held from 15 to 19 April 2013,[6] and its resolutions contained therein, in particular resolutions 24/1 on World Cities Day, 24/4 on gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development, 24/5 on pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies, 24/7, entitled "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge", 24/10 on urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 development agenda, and 24/14 on inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), all of 19 April 2013,

Recalling its resolution 67/148 of 20 December 2012, in which it called upon the United Nations system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/68/8).

Emphasizing the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and settlements,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[7] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[8]

2. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of UN-Habitat;

4. *Affirms* Governing Council of UN-Habitat resolution 24/14 on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process of the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to be met by regular budget and voluntary contributions, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to seek voluntary support for this purpose and calls upon Member States to provide such support;

5. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host the conference in Quito in 2016;

6. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, and also the private sector, financial institutions and foundations, to support the national, regional and global preparations for Habitat III through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in meetings of the preparatory committee and in the conference itself, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 of resolution 67/216;

7. *Invites* Member States to facilitate participatory processes and wide stakeholder participation, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies, where appropriate, in particular through national urban forums also as a means for the preparation of Habitat III;

8. *Encourages* stakeholders gathering at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the conference;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, for the Habitat III preparatory process;

10. *Encourages* all organizations of the United Nations system to support, as appropriate and at the request of Member States, the Habitat III preparatory process at the country level, including the establishment or strengthening of national habitat

[7] A/68/328.

[8] A/68/332.

committees and the preparation of Habitat III national reports, considering the support that could be provided by the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia, in accordance with national legislation and practices, as appropriate;

11. *Welcomes* the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019 and its focus areas, as approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session;[6]

12. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to continue efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate;

15. *Takes note* of the governance review process of UN-Habitat, and encourages the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue its consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus on how to proceed with the governance review;

16. *Decides* to designate 31 October, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, invites States, the United Nations system, in particular UN-Habitat, relevant international organizations, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of the Day, and stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from observing the Day should be met from voluntary contributions;

17. *Welcomes* the commitments of Member States and the efforts of other stakeholders to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements;

18. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth, in order to prevent slum proliferation, enhance access to urban basic services, support inclusive housing, enhance job opportunities and create a safe and healthy living environment;

19. *Recognizes* the significance of equitable and adequate access to urban basic services as a foundation for sustainable urbanization and therefore to overall social and economic development;

20. *Reaffirms* Governing Council of UN-Habitat resolution 24/4 on gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development, and in this regard urges Member States, UN-Habitat and all relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to implement the decision contained therein;

21. *Recalls* the international conference on the theme "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020", held in Rabat from 26 to 28 November 2012,[9] to review and share global progress in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010 and to devise a strategy for inclusive, sustainable and prosperous cities;

22. *Welcomes* the hosting by the Government of South Africa of the UN-Habitat conference on the theme "Leading change in the city" in Johannesburg in 2014;

23. *Invites* Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote just, resilient and inclusive cities, considering the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, and with a particular focus on the needs of women and those who are most vulnerable, including, inter alia, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, rural to urban migrants, internally displaced people and indigenous peoples;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), and to include in his report to the Assembly at its seventy-first session an evaluation of World Cities Day, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

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[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/68/8), annex, resolution 24/7.